**A** **SENATE RESOLUTION**

TO CONGRATULATE SERGEANT SAMMY L. DAVIS, RECIPIENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR, FOR HIS SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY.

Whereas, Sammy L. Davis was born on November 1, 1946, in Dayton, Ohio; and

Whereas, Mr. Davis served his country as a Sergeant in the United States Army, Battery C, Second Battalion, Fourth Artillery, Ninth Infantry Division; and

Whereas, Sergeant Davis participated in action west of Cai Lay, Republic of Vietnam, on November 18, 1967; and

Whereas, Sgt. Davis (then Pfc.) distinguished himself during the early morning hours while serving as a cannoneer with Battery C at a remote fire support base; and

Whereas, at approximately 0200 hours, the fire support base was under heavy enemy mortar attack, and simultaneously, an estimated reinforced Viet Cong battalion launched a fierce ground assault upon the fire support base; and

Whereas, the attacking enemy drove to within twenty-five meters of the friendly positions and only a river separated the Viet Cong from the fire support base; and

Whereas, detecting a nearby enemy position, Sgt. Davis seized a machine gun and provided covering fire for his guncrew as they attempted to bring direct artillery fire on the enemy; and

Whereas, despite his efforts, an enemy recoilless rifle round scored a direct hit upon the artillery piece, and the resultant blast hurled the guncrew from their weapons and blew Sgt. Davis into a foxhole; and

Whereas, he struggled to his feet and returned to the howitzer, which was burning furiously; and

Whereas, ignoring repeated warnings to seek cover, Sgt. Davis rammed a shell into the gun and disregarding a withering hail of enemy fire directed against his position. He aimed and fired the howitzer which rolled backward, knocking Sgt. Davis violently to the ground; and

Whereas, undaunted, he returned to the weapon to fire again when an enemy mortar round exploded within twenty meters of his position, injuring him painfully; and

Whereas, Sgt. Davis loaded the artillery piece, aimed and fired and again he was knocked down by the recoil; and

Whereas, in complete disregard for his safety, Sgt. Davis loaded and fired three more shells into the enemy; and

Whereas, disregarding his extensive injuries and his inability to swim, Sgt. Davis picked up an air mattress and struck out across the deep river to rescue three wounded comrades on the far side; and

Whereas, upon reaching the three wounded men, he stood upright and fired into the dense vegetation to prevent the Viet Cong from advancing; and

Whereas, while the most seriously wounded soldier was helped across the river, Sgt. Davis protected the two remaining casualties until he could pull them across the river to the fire support base; and

Whereas, though suffering from painful wounds, he refused medical attention, joining another howitzer crew which fired at the large Viet Cong force until it broke contact and fled; and

Whereas, Sgt. Davis’ extraordinary heroism, at the risk of his life, is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself and the United States; and

Whereas, Sgt. Davis was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his valorous action in 1968. Now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Senate:

That the members of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, by this resolution, join the Aiken community in honoring Sammy L. Davis for his service to our country and his receipt of the Congressional Medal of Honor and in thanking him for joining the Aiken community to recognize the “Fallen But Not Forgotten” Tribute in memory of Aiken’s own Cpl. Matthew V. Dillon.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Sgt. Sammy L. Davis.

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